

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03996 121419Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 SP-02 /035 W  
-----121616Z 037035 /45S

P R 121257Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 399  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3996

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

ALGIERS FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, SF, EAID  
SUBJECT: BLIND EYES AND DEAF EARS: SOUTH AFRICAN AID TO  
ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 80380; (B) CAPE TOWN 528

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1. WHILE REF (B) IS GENERALLY ENCOURAGING, CAN WE BE CONFIDENT  
THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL KEEP COMPLETELY OUT OF THE SHABA  
AFFAIR? ZAIRE TURNED A BLIND EYE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERVEN-  
TION IN ANGOLA IN OCTOBER 1975, AND IN VIEW CUSTOMARY SOUTH  
AFRICAN TRANSPORT OF POL PRODUCTS AND EXPORT CREDIT  
REINSURANCE MAY STILL NOT BE FULLY SENSITIZED TO POLITICAL  
IMPLICATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION. ANY KIND OF SOUTH

AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT OR AFFILIATION IN SHABA AFFAIR, NO MATTER HOW BENIGN, WOULD RISK AFRICAN BACKLASH AKIN TO THAT EXPERIENCED IN ANGOLAN CASE. IT COULD KILL THE NIGERIAN GOOD OFFICES INITIATIVE AND AGAIN DIVIDE THE CONTINENT, WITH THE US ON THE SIDE OF THE "ANTI-COMMUNISTS." OUR CLAIMS TO STAND FOR DEFENSE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WOULD THEN FALL ON DEAF EARS.

2. WHILE REALIZING THE PROBLEM OF TELLING MOBUTU HOW TO SUCK EGGS, WE WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE PRUDENT TO TAKE A TACTFUL SOUNDING TO MAKE SURE HE APPRECIATES THE DANGERS INVOLVED.  
EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION PER MR STEINER S/S-O.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977LAGOS03996  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770126-0919  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Line Count:** 77  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 80380, 77 CAPE TOWN 528  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2834353  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BLIND EYES AND DEAF EARS: SOUTH AFRICAN AID TO ZAIRE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, MOPS, CG, AO, SF  
**To:** STATE KINSHASA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9048bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009